

The New Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC): A Summary of the Key Provisions

(Policy changes from the 1997 NLC are underlined.)

Article I Findings and Declaration of Purpose

- Facilitate the states' responsibility to protect the public's health and safety;
- Ensure and encourage the cooperation of party states in the areas of nurse licensure and regulation;
- Facilitate the exchange of information between party states in the areas of nurse regulation, investigation and adverse actions;
- Promote compliance with the laws governing the practice of nursing in each jurisdiction;
- Invest all party states with the authority to hold a nurse accountable for meeting all state practice laws in the state in which the patient is located at the time care is rendered through the mutual recognition of party state licenses;
- Decrease redundancies in the consideration and issuance of nurse licenses; and
- Provide opportunities for interstate practice by nurses who meet uniform licensure requirements.

Article II Definitions (self-explanatory)

Article III General Provisions and Jurisdiction

- Eligibility and uniform licensure requirements for a multistate license
- Authority to take adverse action against a multistate licensure privilege with application of state due process laws
- Nurse compliance with state practice laws
- Exclusion of advanced practice nurses
- Grandfathering provision

Article IV Applications for Licensure in a Party State

- Required verification of licensure information via the coordinated licensure information system
- Limitation to one home state license
- Outlines process for change of primary residence/home state

Article V Additional Authorities Invested in Party State Licensing Boards

- Provides authority to
 - Take adverse action against a multistate licensure privilege
 - Allow cease and desist orders to limit privileges
 - Issue subpoenas
 - Obtain and submit criminal background checks
- Requires deactivation of multistate licensure privileges when license encumbered

Article VI Coordinated Licensure Information System and Exchange of Information

- Requires participation in Coordinated Licensure Information System
- Requires prompt reporting of adverse action, current significant investigative information and participation in alternative to discipline programs when known to the board of nursing.
- Provides for exchange of information with other party states

Article VII Establishment of the Interstate Commission of Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators

Establishes the governing body as a public agency known as an “Interstate Commission.” This term is commonly used by other interstate compact governing bodies.

Article VIII Rulemaking

Allows for rules to be adopted directly by the Commission. Such rulemaking is legally binding in all party states. There is no requirement that rules be ratified or adopted by individual states. Such rulemaking authority has been permitted and exercised by other interstate compacts. The procedural requirements are based on the national Model Administrative Procedures Act, which is similar to most state APAs and includes:

- Provision for notice to the public of proposed and adopted rules
- Opportunity for comment
- Opportunity for public hearing
- Consideration and voting upon proposed rules
- Responding to comments received

Article IX Oversight, Dispute Resolution and Enforcement

Ensures compliance with the compact by member states. The procedures to be followed in the event of a failure by a party state to comply with the Compact include:

- A period of technical assistance in curing the default
- Improved dispute resolution processes; and
- Termination from the Compact in the event no other means of compliance has been successful.

Article X Effective Date, Withdrawal and Amendment

Addresses the method for states to enter, withdraw from or amend the compact.

Article XI Construction and Severability

Provides for the compact to remain valid in a state when any provision is declared to be contrary to a party state’s constitution.